REMARKS

In the February 23, 2005 Office Action, all of claims 1-20 stand rejected in view of prior art, also based on nonstatutory double patent rejection. No other objections or rejections are made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the February 23, 2005 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 as presented above. Applicants have also canceled 5-6 and 15-16. Thus, claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-20 are pending, with claims 1 and 12 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections – Double Patenting

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/764,587.

In this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended as presented above. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-20 of the present application are patently distinct from claims 1-20 of Application No. 10/764,587. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the double patent rejections are now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 3,296,731 to Wood ("Wood patent") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0146325 to Kitajima ("Kitajima patent"). Claims 9-11 and 18-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the Wood patent in view of the Kitajima patent and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0146324 to Yeh ("Yeh patent"). (Please note that the references to Sugawara on pages 3-5 of the Office Action are construed to mean the Wood patent.") In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 12 as presented above. Applicants believe that the prior art of record does not anticipate or suggest the arrangements of claims 1 and 12 as now amended.

More specifically, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that the housing unit is made of a magnesium alloy, and the first lid is made of an aluminum alloy. These

limitations are supported by claims 5 and 6 as originally filed. Applicants believe that the arrangements as set forth in claims 1 and 12 are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

First of all, Applicants believe that the Kitajima patent should be disqualified from prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). The inventor of the Kitajima patent is different from those of the present applications, yet they all assigned their inventions to Shimano Inc. as its employees at the time of invention. The U.S. filing date and the publication date of the Kitajima patent and the U.S. filing date and the priority filing date of the present application clearly indicate that the Kitajima patent qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, Applicants believe that the Kitajima patent should be disqualified from prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

Secondly, Applicants believe that none of the prior art of record disclose or suggest the idea of combining different materials in the first and second lids and the housing unit. As stated above, in the present invention, the first lid is made of aluminum alloy, the second lid is made of synthetic resin, and the housing unit is made of a magnesium alloy. The Wood patent, the Yeh patent, and other prior art of record are silent as to the material from which any part of the reel unit is made. Furthermore, the U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0056776 to Sugawara concerns the materials of the rotor, and has no disclosure regarding the material of the reel unit. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the arrangements of claims 1 and 12 are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

Regarding the dependent claims, claims 5-6 and 15-16 have been canceled as presented above. Thus, the rejections thereto are now moot. Furthermore, Applicant believes that remaining dependent claims 2-4, 7-11, 13-14, and 17-20 are allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 1 and 12, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Applicants particularly believe that claim 11 is allowable over the prior art of record, since none of the cited reference disclose or suggest the use of a tapping screw.

Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not anticipate or suggest the arrangements of independent claims 1 and 12, neither does the prior art anticipate or suggest dependent claims 2-4, 7-11, 13-14, and 17-20.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

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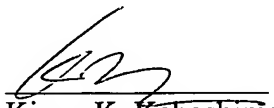
In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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